

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-17 (cancelled)

18. (Currently amended) A method of reducing ozone related degradation of an oligonucleotide on an array during fabrication of said array, said fabrication comprising generating a pattern of light and dark areas by selectively irradiating at least a first area of a surface of a substrate, said surface comprising immobilized nucleotides on said surface, said nucleotides capped with a photoremovable protective group, without irradiating at least a second area of said surface, to remove said protective group from said nucleotides in said first area;

contacting said first area and said second area of said surface with a first nucleotide to couple said first nucleotide to said immobilized nucleotides in said first area, and not in said second area, said first nucleotide capped with said photoremovable protecting group to provide a partially completed nucleotide array;

generating another pattern of light and dark areas by selectively irradiating with light at least a part of said first area of said surface and at least a part of said second area to remove said protective group in said at least a part of said first area and said at least a part of said second area;

contacting said first area and said second area of said surface with a second nucleotide to couple said second nucleotide to said immobilized nucleotides in at least a part of said first area and at least a part of said second area to provide to further complete said partially completed nucleotide array;

performing additional irradiating and nucleotide contacting and coupling steps so

that a matrix array having at least 100 nucleic acids having different sequences is formed on said support; and

 said method of reducing ozone related degradation comprising maintaining throughout the ~~manufacturing fabrication~~ process said partially completed nucleotide arrays in an ozone depleted atmosphere.

19. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 18 wherein said ozone depleted atmosphere comprises carbon-filtered air.
20. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 19 wherein said ozone depleted atmosphere has an ozone concentration of less than 10 ppb.
21. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 20 wherein said ozone depleted atmosphere has an ozone concentration of less than 5 ppb.
22. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 21 wherein said ozone depleted atmosphere has an ozone concentration of 0 to 2 ppb.
23. (Presently amended) A method for ~~fabricating preventing~~ ozone related degradation of an oligonucleotide array said method comprising maintaining said array in an ozone depleted atmosphere.
24. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 23 wherein said ozone depleted atmosphere comprises carbon-filtered air.
25. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 24 wherein said ozone depleted atmosphere has an ozone concentration of less than 10 ppb.
26. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 25 wherein said ozone depleted atmosphere has an ozone concentration of less than 5 ppb.

27. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 26 wherein said ozone depleted atmosphere has an ozone concentration of 0 to 2 ppb.

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